

# **SLIDEFUND**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **CLEANCARE** *Tacoma, Washington*



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

December 2000

## **CleanCare Removal Action Complete**

### **Site Cleanup Completed**

#### **Ecology to take over operation and maintenance of storm water system**

EPA completed its removal action at the CleanCare site in September 2000. The total cost of the removal to date is 4.3 million dollars. Since December 1999, EPA has removed close to two million gallons of waste from the site. The wastes were stored in 3,630 containers, 33 aboveground storage tanks, and 19 temporary aboveground storage tanks. In addition, EPA demolished four above ground storage tanks and installed an asphalt cap on three areas of the site covering more than 26,000 square feet. Because the site's stormwater system was broken and contaminated, EPA installed an aboveground stormwater management system. The Washington State Department of Ecology has agreed to take over the operation and maintenance of the stormwater system.

### **The Removal Actions:**

#### **Building 5**

Building 5 contained more than 2,500 of the 3,630 drums disposed of at the CleanCare site. The drums were sorted into waste categories such

as flammable liquids, corrosive liquids, or poisonous liquids and taken to an off site treatment, storage, and disposal facility.



Condition of Building 5 prior to EPA's removal action.



Building 5 after the removal.

## Tank Farm 1

Tank Farm #1, the largest tank farm, had four aboveground steel storage tanks which contained about 450,000 gallons of hazardous waste, waste oils, sludge, and water. Approximately 90 "vacuum" tank truck loads, each holding about 5,000 gallons, were used to remove the waste

from the tanks. After the wastes were removed and the insides of the tanks were cleaned, workers cut the tanks up into small pieces using hydraulic shears. The pieces of steel were then recycled. After the tanks were removed, sampling revealed subsurface soil contamination. To prevent the contamination from spreading to the surface water, EPA installed an asphalt cap.



Tank farm 1 during the removal action.



Tank farm 1 after the removal of four deteriorating tanks and installation of the asphalt cap.

## Empty Drum Storage Area

This unlined storage area was filled with hundreds of empty drums, some with waste material still inside. EPA removed all of the drums and then conducted sampling which determined that the subsurface soils under the empty drums are contaminated. To prevent the contamination from spreading to the surface water, EPA installed an asphalt cap.



**Left:** Hundreds of drums in "empty drum storage area" prior to EPA's removal action.



**Above:** The same "empty drum storage area" after removal of the drums and installation of the asphalt cap.

## Area South of Tank Farm 2

This area was a storage lot for tractor trailer trucks filled with drums, and for temporary storage tanks which were filled with wastes. In addition, soils in the area were contaminated by previous spills. EPA removed all of the trailers and temporary tanks. Once this was done, EPA conducted soil sampling which revealed the nature and extent of the soil contamination. To prevent the contamination from spreading to the surface water, EPA installed an asphalt cap.

## What's Next?

Now that the removal is complete and the three asphalt caps are in place, the immediate threats from the above ground contamination to human health and the environment have been eliminated. EPA is now evaluating information in CleanCare's business records to determine whether, and from whom, EPA might seek to recover cleanup costs at the Site. Due to the huge volume of records at the Site, EPA cannot yet predict when this investigation will be completed. When the review and investigation of the business records are complete, EPA will then decide whether or not to recover some or all of the removal costs. Should EPA decide to recover cleanup costs, the agency will notify the potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

The Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program has provided a Remedial Action Grant to the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department to conduct an initial investigation of specific areas on the site. This assessment will provide additional information about the extent of groundwater and soil contamination for the purpose of determining the need for additional cleanup actions at the site.

## Background

The CleanCare site is located at 1510 Taylor Way in Pierce County, Tacoma, Washington. It covers about 4.2 acres and is located in the "Tacoma Tideflats" area three miles northeast of downtown Tacoma. The site was used for temporary treatment, storage, disposal, and recycling of hazardous and nonhazardous waste from other locations -- one of a handful of commercial facilities of this type operating in the state of Washington. The CleanCare facility had four separate tank farms, two hazardous/dangerous waste container storage pads, and a processing area where solvents, oil, and antifreeze were distilled.

The EPA Removal Action is now complete, and the aboveground part of the CleanCare site no longer poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

## For More Information:

For US EPA, please contact Michael Szerlog, EPA On-Scene Coordinator at 206-553-0279 or Jeanne O'Dell, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206-553-6919 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372.

For WA State Department of Ecology, please contact Kerry Graber, Ecology Project Manager at 360-407-0241

The Administrative Record for this removal action is available at the following locations:

Tacoma Main Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Avenue South  
Northwest Room  
Tacoma, WA

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
7th Floor Records Center  
Seattle, WA

A file on this project can also be found at:

Citizens for a Healthy Bay  
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 406  
Tacoma, WA

Information on this project will be posted on the EPA Region 10's website at  
<http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/CleanCare> OR  
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>, then click on the word "index" at the bottom of the page, then  
click on "C" for CleanCare.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to  
persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers above.



Region 10 (ECO-081)  
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*CleanCare*

*Tacoma, Washington*